

NIS Story

1962 CIA took over (OBI)

STATINTL

1963 Balance Committee Survey 11 NIS FY 62 or FY 63?

OCI personnel [redacted] drafted to write experimental Gen. Surveys (2 others - what was they? Induction? Sent to Amb in field for comment.)

6. Sec 11 (Sigint of CIA) also drafted by OCI as training exercise
From July 63 - Jun 64 all Sec 11 to be done by OCI.

1964 SAR/OCI established 1 May 64

DER took over ^{Sec 163 and} ~~Sec 163 and~~ chapters of Gen Survey
New research paper, authored 21 July 64

OCI began to turn out NIS's - Took full resp for all Sec 11's. FY 64.

1965 Nov 65 OCI undertook expanded 57s, which had been discontinued from fall of 65.

OCI prepared new 57 outline

30 GS adopted as OCI target.
Current Intel Committee, Handbooks establ.

1966 Began to contribute to Basic Intel Foot Book 2, formerly a DDI book.

Ad Hoc Handbook done under SAR/OCI per DCI - this year.
FY 67 reports on Sec 4 began

1967 What is DDP relationship to 57 and intel sec of 63?

Guides as handbook works on NIS.

1968 2 Sec 45 formed out of Consumer Survey
Labor input to Sec 4.

25X1A [REDACTED] - 3 Dec 69

THE NIS PROGRAM

The item in the Balmer report which "upset" the NIC community about FY 62 or FY 63 as reported in the annual accomplishments report of 196 was merely the suggestion that the General Survey be parlayed into the premier NIS publication.

The Balmer report should be available for reading either in OCI or OBGI.

SECRET

25X1A

- 3 Dec 69

THE NIS PROGRAM

Among the features added to the NIS program as the result of recent experience is the sentence or two recording the percentage of persons who voted in national elections.

This resulted from a White House call during off duty hours for information on the percentage of voters in Western nations who vote in national elections. The call was sparked by a 72% turnout in South Vietnam and by President Johnson's feeling that this was a pretty good demonstration of democracy at work. After much effort tearing up the library and other places an answer got back to the White House. Subsequently, it was discovered that reference to readily available NIS General Surveys would have turned up the information quickly and without pain. Such info is now regularly enshrined in all Surveys on countries with a vote.

Similar experiences with questions regarding the system of succession on the death of chiefs of state have led to a description of the succession system being included in the appropriate section of each General Survey.

25X1A

[REDACTED] - 3 Dec 69

THE NIS PROGRAM

25X1A The Basic Intelligence Factbook resulted from DDI Ray Cline's desire to have a compendium of facts which he could take with him to briefings and meetings. It was first prepared in the DDI's office and was typed on plain white paper in loose-leaf form. Subsequently it was made into a formal publication and won immediate acclaim. Then, possibly, [REDACTED], who headed the Research Division of OBI which had just taken over the NIS program, saw it and recognized it as a good thing and brought it under the NIS aegis. Later (in FY 66?) the Factbook became national intelligence, in the sense that DIA and Census contributed to it although they did not go into a formal USIB type review of its contents. State also at one time contributed the portion on legalx systems, but this did not last long.

The General Survey in its present form is probably the result of Ray Cline's ministrations. Possibly for personnel and budgetary reasons it may not have been possible to keep up all the backup sections in the volume that State had once written them. Also Ray may have felt that politics was too changeable a subject to enshrine in a number of publications. He therefore argued for an enlarged General Survey and for elimination of most if not all backup chaptersx dealing with politics. This eventually was done, after three experimental Surveys were done by CIA. (India was one.)

25X1A The Comments on Principal Sources at the back of each Survey chapter were done away with at the instance of CIA. Why? They were replaced later, primarily at the insistence of [REDACTED] by an annotated list of suggested further reading, first on an experimental basis and then on a fairly regular one.

25X1A The election tables which appear in Sections 5 on countries having meaningful elections, derive in part from [REDACTED] early representations for the inclusion in the NIS of basic statistical tables on population, election and other subjects which periodically are the subject of intelligence analysis

and on which analysts always want reference material. (They specifically resulted from an occasionx when somebody had to break into the library one night to answer a White House request or something, however. ECW)

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